



IFES Quarterly Report: January 1, 2005, - March 31, 2005

Electoral Technical Assistance to the Independent Electoral Commission of Iraq (IECI)

USAID Associate Agreement No. 267-A-00-04-00405-00

Under Cooperative Agreement No. DGC-A-00-01-00004-00

Project Period: September 1, 2004 to January 31, 2006

Total Budget: \$40,000,000 Expenses Recorded to Date: \$ 19,651,405

Results Summary/Impact Statement

IFES, working closely with the United Nations, provided technical assistance to the IECI in a number of critical areas:

- **Training:** IFES was involved in the training of 200 master trainers who were responsible for initiating the cascade training for an additional 6,000 poll workers. Public information officers from the governorates were also trained.
- **Voters list and Ballot Production:** Voters list was printed and delivered for exhibition period. IFES directly contracted with Austrian Media Group (AMG) for the printing of the voters list and deployed multiple personnel to the voters list and ballot printing facilities to ensure quality standards were met and that production and delivery were conducted in a timely manner.
- **Data Management and Creation of Tally Room:** The migration of data from the oil-for-food distribution system to the voters list was completed and preparations for the data entry center for Election Day established. IFES personnel prepared and assisted with the operation of the Tally Room which operated on a 24 hour per-day basis until tabulation was completed. The Tally Room employed approximately 200 Iraqis who were trained to perform the data entry work. IFES staff played a central role analyzing and auditing the results database in order to prepare both partial and final results.
- **Communications:** IFES staff managed and maintained the IECI IT/network.
- **Voter Education:** To supplement IFES' contract with Bell-Pottinger to provide voter education advertisements (see previous quarterly) in the run up to the election, IFES contracted with the Ramen Company which delivered 787 thirty second television advertisements on both regional satellite and domestic networks, in addition to 1,344 radio, and 136 newspaper advertisements between January 23 and January 30.
- **Election Day Operational Plan and Logistics Support:** The UN, IFES, and the Multi-National Forces – Iraq (MNF-I) assisted the IECI in developing a logistics plan suited to the security environment for Election Day. IFES monitored and advised the IECI in managing Election Day administrative challenges and in overcoming security obstacles to ensure that as many polling stations opened and operated as were feasibly possible. An IFES staff member was deployed to facilitate ballot transport with MNF-I to the IECI when significant problems arose.
- **Disputes Adjudication:** An IFES disputes adjudication expert closely advised the IECI in establishing the adjudication framework for election complaints. IFES personnel assisted with receiving and processing disputes until late February.

Background

IFES' role in the electoral process is to provide technical and material support to the IECI. Drawing on a year's worth of experience in election planning in Iraq, IFES commenced its program, 'Electoral Technical Assistance to the Independent Electoral Commission of Iraq (IECI),' on the first of September, 2004. The program is designed to respond rapidly to the needs of the IECI throughout the election and referendum cycle and continues to:

- Support the institutional development of the IECI and the implementation of electoral processes through the provision of international election specialists; and,
- Provide material support to the IECI through the provision of office equipment, election commodities, and support services contracts when and if IFES is able to provide such support more efficiently than the United Nations for the IECI itself.

Activities

- **Lessons Learned Sessions and Reports:** In the days following the certification of election results, the IFES Technical Assistance Team left Baghdad to participate in the lessons learned and needs assessment conferences in Washington, DC and New York, NY held respectively between 8-14 and 15-19 March. Based on the input at the Washington, DC and New York, NY conferences, IFES is drafting two reports – a lessons learned document and needs assessment document – which are near completion.
- **Institutional Capacity Building:** IFES personnel have been redeployed to Baghdad (first arrival on 5 April) and continue programmatic activities with institutional capacity building support. One election specialist is assisting with the consolidation of election related materials into a comprehensive archive. Another is working closely with the IECI to identify and define training programs for the development of IECI staff professional skills. Simultaneously, a 'needs assessment' is being finalized which will guide future programming.

Activities Planned for Next Quarter

Recent assessments and lessons learned exercises, which took place after the 30 January elections, will guide IFES support activities for the referendum and general election required by the TAL. IFES will assist the IECI through a process of institutional consolidation with development of managerial competencies through specialized training and mentorship that aims to strengthen key technical skills including, but not limited to, network management, data management, graphic design, and logistics planning,.

- **Institutional Capacity Building:** Through a coordinated and collaborative effort, IFES will assist with the design of a training and mentorship program schedule to facilitate the development of professional skills. In addition, an institutional development plan will emphasize the need to strengthen lines of communication, operational units, human resource policy, reporting, and clarity of administrative responsibility and authority within the IECI. Through formalized training and targeted mentoring programs, the IECI will become a self sustaining and professional electoral administration by developing,

among other things, the ability to draft electoral regulations, handle electoral complaints, and institutionalize training and professional skills development.

- **Preparation for Referendum:** A recruitment and deployment strategy of key IFES election experts will ensure the IECI receives advisory services relevant to the current elections schedule which includes the administration of a nation-wide referendum in October and general election in December.
- **Security and Communications Coordination:** IFES will assist the IECI in developing a liaison structure for security planning and execution.
- **Procedural Development and Training:** IFES will advise and assist the IECI with developing regulations, procedures, and hand books to describe the manner in which electoral activities are to be conducted.
- **Data Management:** IFES will assist the IECI with the development and maintenance of the several databases required, allowing the IECI to conduct more of this vital work directly rather than through contractors.
- **Public information:** IFES will continue to assist the IECI with the creation and dissemination of public information messages.
- **Operational Planning:** IFES will continue to assist with the development of the operational plan for the referendum and general election and any associated voter registration exercises.
- **Regulations:** IFES will continue to assist with the drafting of regulations and other legal framework documents.
- **Commodities Procurement:** IFES will continue to assist with the procurement of commodities and services in support of capacity building activities.